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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1506th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 January 2025

On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in further confrontation in and around Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I shall start off with a couple of quotes.

“Zelenskyy is our enemy. Zelenskyy has caused the problems we are experiencing.” “Zelenskyy is a beggar and a blackmailer.”

“The mood with regard to the war in Ukraine is not good. The situation on the front line is very difficult. There is huge war fatigue in Ukraine itself. People are fed up.”

It is with such sobering assessments on their lips that Slovak and Polish leaders went into the new year 2025 – Robert Fico, the Prime Minister of Slovakia, in the first case, and Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, the Minister of National Defence of Poland, in the second.

Behind Western diplomats’ ritual mantras about supporting Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s regime it is possible to perceive far more serious processes going on. Specifically the onset of tangible socio-economic and domestic political repercussions as a result of the previous elites’ gamble on supporting “Anglo-Saxon” adventures against Russia.

The overall expenditure of Western countries on sponsorship of the Kyiv regime during 2022–2024, including through international institutions, was in excess of 300 billion US dollars. This ill-advised gambling on support for a neo-Nazi regime has resulted in a “full house” of economic problems in those very sponsor countries. In Germany alone, which was once considered to be the driving engine of the EU economy and which since 2022 has allocated over 37 billion euros to the Zelenskyy regime, more than 300,000 jobs have been lost over the past three years. A huge hole has emerged in the budget of France and other countries.

Back in early 2022, the European Commission, when making its economic forecasts, had worked on the assumption that the aggregate annual growth rate of the EU economy would be at least 4 per cent. In

2023, it plummeted to 0.3 per cent. The growth rate for 2024 has likewise turned out to be below 1 per cent according to preliminary estimates.

Despite the change in the political winds that has occurred in a number of countries as a consequence of domestic troubles, the “war party” in the West doggedly seeks to drag out the armed confrontation in and around Ukraine, and also to make use of the experience gained in the course of that confrontation to prepare for a conflict of far greater intensity and far wider geographical scope.

Certain sensible thoughts are nevertheless being voiced here and there in the West. In particular, that the armed confrontation in and around Ukraine should never have happened. These assessments are seconded in our country – on the understanding that security threats being generated from Ukrainian territory will always elicit a specific response depending on their scale. The best solution for the NATO countries is therefore to stop generating those threats.

Before leaving office as US President, Joe Biden pointed out that the influx of weapons to the Kyiv regime over many years had created the risk of a nuclear confrontation with Russia. He was admitting, in effect, that the United States of America and its allies had deliberately been seeking to aggravate matters. They goaded our country, creating extremely serious challenges and threats. In view of this, it is bizarre to hear the clichéd propaganda in this room about “aggressive actions” by Russia having allegedly undermined security in the OSCE area.

On a separate note, we would point out that the United Kingdom, true to historical form, continues to play the role of principal ideological instigator of the Western countries’ hybrid anti-Russian endeavours. We realize that, after leaving the European Union in 2020 (i.e., after Brexit), the United Kingdom can hardly be expected to care about the fate of that confederation – or indeed of continental Europe as a whole. Except perhaps from a utilitarian point of view.

And very much in keeping with that is the proxy war being waged against Russia, a war that is literally killing the economies of EU countries. The planned nature of this proxy war was not so long ago directly and publicly acknowledged by former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who did his bit to get the Kyiv regime to repudiate the Istanbul agreements in March 2022. As a result of that derailment, the conflict went on and became more intense; its geographical boundaries were widened. All this has led to a tremendous number of casualties and massive devastation. According to the testimony of captured soldiers from the Ukrainian armed forces, it was British instructors at a military base near the village of Downholme who trained combatants for the attack on the town of Sudzha in the Kursk region in August 2024. Overall, since 2022 more than 51,000 Ukrainian armed forces personnel have undergone training on the “foggy shores of Albion” as part of Operation Interflex. In addition, British mercenaries are present in the conflict zone.

On 16 January 2025, the latest new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Keir Starmer, signed a co-operation agreement with the Kyiv regime that provides for the establishment of military bases and materiel depots in Ukraine, the stationing of military personnel and other actions to foment regional instability.

We stress that the “Anglo-Saxon” military investments in the Ukrainian conflict will not produce the desired results. The Ukrainian armed forces are retreating along pretty much the entire line of engagement. The deteriorating situation on the battlefield and the huge personnel losses are already compelling the Ukrainian armed forces command to make some difficult decisions, including the transfer of air force personnel and members of air defence units to the infantry. Musicians from the Lviv military orchestra have been sent to the front line, too.

Even according to biased Western non-governmental organizations, more than 12,000 Ukrainians who went abroad in 2024 as part of delegations decided not to return home. Here it is appropriate to recall the episode involving the no-show Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, who in 2024 availed herself of her diplomatic status to abandon the Kyiv regime-controlled territories together with her husband, whereupon she was dismissed from the diplomatic corps.

What happened with the French-trained 155th Separate Mechanized Brigade (or “Anne of Kyiv” Brigade) of the Ukrainian Armed Forces is a further shameful chapter in the French Government’s collaboration with the Kyiv regime. This had been meant to become an “elite” brigade; according to various estimates, France earmarked several hundred million euros for its training and equipment. However, its fighters immediately began to abscond from the brigade as soon as they reached France. And this was the case again later on when the brigade was on its way to the area of combat operations. It thus turned out that before the brigade had even fired its first shot, some 2,000 personnel, or around one third of its original troop strength, did not reach the front line near Krasnoarmeysk (Donetsk People’s Republic, Russia). Similar tendencies to desert and low combat morale can also be observed in the German-trained 153rd Separate Mechanized Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and in many other units.

Against this backdrop, under pressure from its Western sponsors, the Kyiv regime has already prepared a decision on lowering the minimum age for mobilization. In the hope of enlisting 18-year-old youths in the Ukrainian armed forces, they are referring to this as “voluntary recruitment”. The deputy head of Mr. Zelenskyy’s office, Pavlo Palisa, clarified that such a measure was being drawn up chiefly because the previous reduction of the mobilization age from 28 to 25 years had “not had the necessary effect” in terms of helping to make up for losses and having an impact on the battlefield.

It is no coincidence that in western Ukraine there has of late been a surge in the popularity of coach tours for 16- to 18-year-old youths, who want to get abroad in order to escape future mobilization. In this context, former Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who has found himself a job in the United States, admitted in an interview on 12 January that he had personally dissuaded his 18-year-old son from enlisting in the Ukrainian armed forces. Most telling, is it not?

Mr. Chairperson,

Our country’s position on the parameters for a settlement, which it is important to make into a sustainable one, is consistent and has not changed since the start of the special military operation. A neutral non-aligned and non-nuclear status for Ukraine must be fully ensured, as must the country’s demilitarization and denazification. Needless to say, it is essential to put an end to discriminatory practices against the Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine, and to guarantee and ensure their rights and freedoms. All these basic and foundational provisions should be established in the form of legally binding agreements. It is necessary to also work out a mechanism for ensuring that they cannot be violated.

We once again draw attention to the arguments set forth in the statement delivered by President Vladimir Putin during his meeting with senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the text of which was distributed by us at the OSCE on 18 June 2024 (SEC.DEL/247/24). We would remind you that substantive contacts on a settlement are being impeded by the Kyiv regime’s self-imposed ban on contacts with the leadership of our country – a ban that was adopted on 30 September 2022 and came into force on 4 October 2022.

However, if the aforementioned decision is reconsidered and it does prove possible for contacts to begin, one must be clear from the outset that “President” Zelenskyy, whose term has expired and who has forfeited all legitimacy, does not have the authority to sign any legally binding agreements whatsoever or

indeed to act as a guarantor of their implementation. By the looks of it, he is destined to go down in history as no more than the co-author of an assortment of talking points consisting of outlandish “victory plans”, “internal resilience plans” and other demagogic exercises in that spirit, and likewise as an apologist for the prosecution of a proxy war “down to the last Ukrainian” in the interests of NATO.

Incidentally, we note Mr. Zelenskyy’s rather helpful moment of lucidity, when he, finally, admitted in public that the West had been deceiving the Ukrainians and him personally. At the economic forum in Davos on 16 January, he openly stated that the promises of Euro-Atlantic prospects for Ukraine had been “simply false words” and “a not very transparent policy from the very start”. His verdict on the neocolonial Western powers, not least the United States, could not have been put more plainly: “All this was dishonest towards the Ukrainians.” And he added that the Ukrainian leaders themselves had lied to their country’s population. We would add that he himself was lying, too, when he affirmed that NATO membership was just around the corner and that all that was required was a little “down payment” in the form of human lives lost in the conflict with Russia. All these confessions prompt one to ask a simple question: so who in Ukraine, then, had need of this carnage in return for unrealistic promises? Did ordinary Ukrainians really need all this? Ordinary Ukrainians who continue to be sent to a certain death through forced mobilization?

The worse the situation of the Ukrainian armed forces, the more horrendous the crimes perpetrated by Mr. Zelenskyy’s fighters. During the liberation of the village of Russkoye Porechnoye in the Kursk region by Russian troops in mid-January, evidence was found in the cellars of houses that points to extrajudicial executions of civilians, mainly pensioners. Heartbreaking video footage has gone round the world in which one can see how the bodies of civilians were discovered there – the bodies of elderly women showing signs of torture, who had had their hands bound and their clothes ripped apart.

However, the OSCE leadership is again silent, thereby making itself *de facto* complicit in the concealment of these ghastly crimes of the Kyiv regime. There has not even been a pro forma expression of concern. No concern has been voiced either over the more than 800 civilians killed and the 5,400 civilians injured in 2024 as they fell victim to the targeted and indiscriminate shelling of Russian regions by the Ukrainian armed forces.

Last year, 51 children perished and 347 were injured as a result of the Ukrainian armed forces’ actions in Russia. Yet, not a word is to be heard from the OSCE leadership about them either. Instead, it is amplifying the Kyiv regime’s false propaganda about “tens of thousands of children deported to Russia”. Can one possibly speak of the OSCE having any authority in these circumstances?

In closing, we stress that our country is open to reasonable initiatives seeking to achieve, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the current crisis and that take into account Russia’s legitimate security interests. However, there will be no “freeze” along the line of engagement. Russia is not interested in granting the Kyiv regime a truce that would allow it to rearm and build up strength so as to subsequently, with the help of NATO countries, set about posing new threats to the security of our country’s inhabitants.

Any options for a settlement should be based on geopolitical realities and aimed at bringing about a sustainable and fair peace, with account taken of the interests of all sovereign States, including of course Russia. As long as this approach is not met with due understanding, the special operation will be continued by military means until all the tasks set have been accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.